

Issue NE-CW4004, released October 4, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending October 3, 2004, the first general frost of the season occurred late in the week, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Soybean harvest progressed ahead of normal with limited delays due to rainfall received during the week. Corn fields needed further drydown which should be hastened by last week’s freezing temperatures. The rain received will benefit fall seeded wheat, alfalfa, and pastures. Producer activities also included fall wheat seeding and harvesting alfalfa.

Weather Summary: Temperatures for the week averaged from 3 degrees below normals to normals. Precipitation was statewide except for the eastern most counties. Amounts averaged near half an inch with totals over 2 inches in portions of the north central and northern Panhandle.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending October 3, 2004				
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Topsoil				
Very Short	10	9	31	26
Short	22	24	36	33
Adequate	67	65	33	40
Surplus	1	2	0	1
Subsoil				
Very Short	33	44	44	41
Short	32	31	42	31
Adequate	35	25	14	28
Surplus	0	0	0	0
Days Suitable	5.0	4.0	6.5	6.0

Field Crops Report: Corn condition rated 3 percent very poor, 5 poor, 20 fair, 47 good, and 25 excellent, above last year and average. Irrigated fields rated 78 percent good and excellent while dryland fields rated 61. This compares to 76 and 15, respectively, a year ago. Seventy-one percent of the fields were considered mature, behind last year at 82 and average at 90. Harvest was 13 percent complete, behind last year at 16 and average at 25.

Soybeans condition rated 4 percent very poor, 10 poor, 25 fair, 46 good, and 15 excellent, above last year and average. Plants had dropped leaves on 95 percent of the acreage, ahead of last year at 89 percent and average at 94. Harvest was 37 percent complete, ahead of last year at 26 and average at 30.

Sorghum condition rated 4 percent very poor, 10 poor, 42 fair, 38 good, and 6 excellent, above last year and average. Fifty-eight percent of the acreage was mature, behind last year at 62 and average at 80. Harvest was 9 percent complete, behind last year at 11 and average at 25.

Dry bean conditions rated 7 percent very poor, 18 poor, 30 fair, 39 good, and 6 excellent. Eighty-five percent had dropped leaves, behind last year at 95 and average at 94. Twenty-five

percent were harvested, well behind last year at 78 and average at 79.

Proso millet harvest progressed to 50 percent complete, behind last year at 85.

Wheat seeding moved ahead to 85 percent planted, behind last year at 90 and average at 88. Fifty-seven percent had emerged, behind last year at 65 and average at 59. The rainfall of the past weeks should promote germination and establishment of stands.

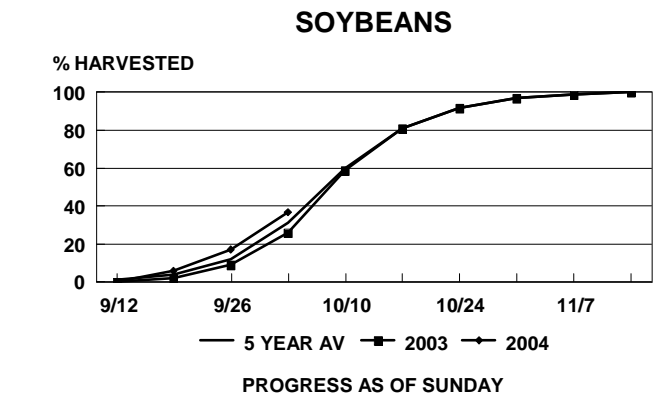
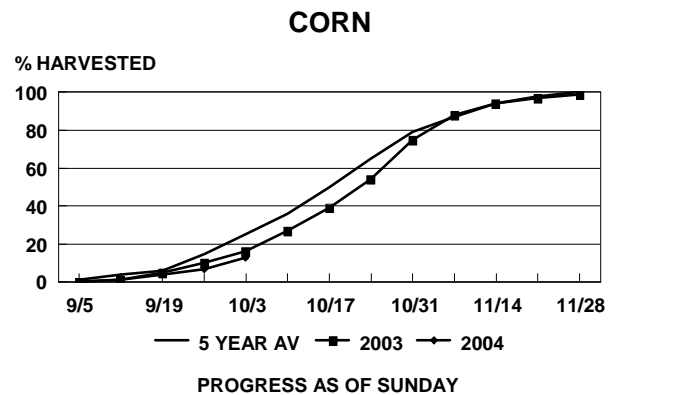
Alfalfa conditions rated 13 percent very poor, 15 poor, 29 fair, 36 good, and 7 excellent, above last year and average. Fourth cutting activities were 72 percent harvested, behind last year at 84 and average at 80.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending October 3, 2004				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Alfalfa 4 th Cutting	72	56	84	80
Corn Mature	71	51	82	90
Corn Harvested	13	7	16	25
Sorghum Mature	58	39	62	80
Sorghum Harvested	9	3	11	25
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	95	83	89	94
Soybeans Harvested	37	17	26	30
Wheat Seeded	85	68	90	88
Wheat Emerged	57	39	65	59

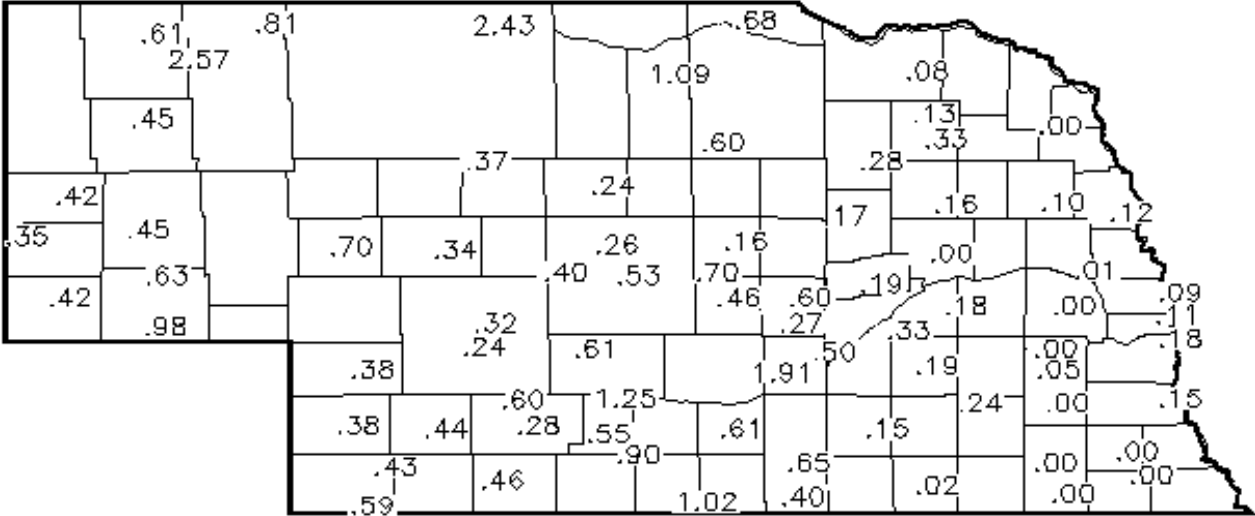
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending October 3, 2004					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Alfalfa	13	15	29	36	7
Corn	3	5	20	47	25
Sorghum	4	10	42	38	6
Soybeans	4	10	25	46	15

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 20 percent very poor, 21 poor, 34 fair, 24 good, and 1 excellent, above a year ago and average. Some producers were providing supplemental feed while waiting for stalk fields to become available.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm. For those receiving an e-mail text version of this publication, a complete version including crop progress charts and precipitation maps can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/2004.htm>.



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending October 3, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - October 3, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week 1	.55	1.11	.25	.59	.15	.57	.83	.07
Total since April 1	14.04	18.31	20.42	18.71	17.84	18.85	18.60	19.18
Normal since April 1	13.11	16.75	19.53	18.49	21.32	15.71	18.28	22.38
Total as % of normal	106%	109%	105%	101%	83%	119%	102%	85%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature, By Location, Nebraska,
Week Ending Sunday, October 3, 2004

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	78	31	53	-2
	Scottsbluff	77	31	53	-1
	Sidney	74	34	53	-2
NC	Ainsworth	76	31	54	-3
	Arthur	76	32	54	-2
	O'Neill	77	28	54	-3
NE	Concord	79	25	55	-3
	Elgin	78	30	55	-3
	West Point	82	25	56	-3
C	Grand Island	78	32	56	-2
	Lexington	78	36	58	0
	Ord	77	29	55	-3
EC	Lincoln	82	30	59	-1
	Central City	79	28	56	-3
	Mead	83	26	57	-3
SW	Champion	78	33	58	-1
	North Platte	76	33	56	-2
	Curtis	79	30	56	-1
SC	Smithfield	77	33	56	-1
	Minden	78	32	57	-1
	Red Cloud	81	30	58	-1
SE	Beatrice	83	28	59	-2
	Clay Center	79	28	56	-3
	Nemaha	86	30	61	0

Source: High Plains Climate Center.